Process', an amount of US $ 7,67,198 has been paid to the Consultants till date. The expenditure on foreign travel is Rs. 39.59 lakh.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of State Agricultural Ministers

1922. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the State Agriculture Ministers from South was held in Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting along with other related matters standing the demand raised by the States Agriculture Ministers in the conference; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A Conference of State Agriculture Ministers from South States was held in Bangalore on 14.11.1995.

(b) The agenda of the Conference was as follows:

(i) Fixation of Minimum Retail Prices (MRPs) for decontrolled fertilizers.

(ii) Restoration of subsidy on P & K fertilizers.

(iii) Urea-policy issues.

(iv) Use of subsidised fertilizers for manufacture of mixtures.

(v) Inter-State coordinator Management.

(vi) Inter-State quality control measures of pesticides.

(vii) Mutual cooperation among State Seeds Corporations.

(c) As a result of the deliberation of the Agriculture Ministers from the Southern States the following resolutions were submitted to the Government of India in the form of a Memorandum.

(i) Policy on subsidy on Phosphatic/Potassic/Complex fertilizers to be restored at levels prevailing during 1991-92.

(ii) The present policy of control on urea at the present price level should be continued.

(iii) The use of subsidised urea for fertilizer mixture should be permitted.

(iv) Allotment of Railway wagons to Southern States should be made for movement of fertilisers on top priority, the availability in peak consumption periods should be ensured.

(v) A bold policy should be adopted for procurement of surplus sugar and the proposal of the State Government to expand the crushing capacity of the existing sugar factories besides setting up of additional sugar factories in the region should be considered.

The Memorandum is under consideration of the Government.

Exemption for New Drugs under DPCO

1923. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any exemption for New Drugs from the Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the number of years for which such exemption is granted to such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Under para 25 (2)(f) of the DPCO, 1995, a manufacturer of a new drug

which has not been produced elsewhere, if developed through indigenous research and development, may be exempted from the operations of all or any of the provisions of that order. Further, Guideline No. 1/95 issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals provide that, subject to certain conditions, exemption from price control for such new drugs can be granted for a period of 10 years reckoned from the date of commercial production.

Use of Pesticides made by DU PONT

1924. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the pesticides used in India which are made by Du Pont of USA;

(b) whether any of these pesticides are harmful to human life and crops;

(c) if so, which are such pesticides; and

(d) the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) (i) Benomyl, (ii) Diuron, (iii) Mancozeb and (iv) Methomyl are registered for use in the country. Du Pont also manufactures these pesticides.

(b) to (d) All pesticides are toxic by nature and can be harmful if proper precautions are not taken in handling and application.

Benomyl, Diuron and Methomyl are currently under review by a High Level Expert Committee.

Objectives of District Primary Education Programme

1925. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);

(b) the main funding agency of DPEP;

(c) the funds allotted to different States under DPEP during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken to implement DPEP effectively; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVEOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) The objectives of District Primary Education Programme is to hasten Universalisation of Elementary Education especially in districts where female literacy is below the national average and where Total Literacy Campaigns have successfully generated a demand for elementary education.

(b) As of now, the World Bank and the European Union are funding the District Primary Education Programme.

(c) The District Primary Education Programme started in November, 1994. Govt. of India released the Central share to the tune of Rs. 87.82 crores to seven States viz. Assam, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in 1994-95. A sum of Rs. 35 crores has been released to Madhya Pradesh so far during 1995-96.

(d) and (e) Detailed guidelines and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation have been put in place to keep a watch on programme implementation.